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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Applicant: Schindler
Appl. No.: 10/540,163
International Filing Date: August 13, 2003
Title: METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION OF A SCOURING BODY
Attorney Docket No.: 331.1092
Pub. No.: US 2006/0168897 A1
Pub. Date: August 3, 2006

This is a decision on the request for a corrected patent application publication under 37 CFR 1.221(b), received on September 29, 2006, for the above-identified application

The request is DISMISSED.

The instant request is that the application be republished because the front page of the patent application publication includes a material error in the foreign priority information as the application improperly fails to include a foreign priority claim to application DE 102 59 540.2 filed December 19, 2002.

37 CFR 1.221 (b) is applicable "only when the Office makes a material mistake which is apparent from Office records.... Any request for a corrected publication or revised patent application publication other than provided as provided in paragraph (a) of this section must be filed within two months from the date of the patent application publication. This period is not extendable." A material mistake must affect the public's ability to appreciate the technical disclosure of the patent application publication, to determine the scope of the patent application publication, or to determine the scope of the provisional rights that an applicant may seek to enforce upon issuance of a patent.¹

The failure to include a foreign priority claim to application DE 102 59 540.2 filed December 19, 2002, in the priority information on the front page of the published patent application is an Office error but it is not a material error, as required by 37 CFR 1.221(b). The error in the foreign priority claim is not a material mistake because it does not affect the public's ability to appreciate the technical disclosure of the patent application publication, to determine the scope of the patent application publication or to determine the scope of the provisional rights that an applicant may seek to enforce upon issuance of a patent. The specification and claims

¹Changes to Implement Eighteen-Month Publication of Patent Applications, 65 FR 57023, 57038 (Sept. 20, 2000), 1239, Off. Gaz. Pat. Office Notices 63, 75 (Oct. 10, 2000) (final rule).

were accurately published, thus one can read and understand the content of the application. The error also does not affect the use of the patent application publication as a prior art reference, because the foreign priority date is not useable as a reference date.

On April 24, 2006, a Filing Receipt was mailed by the Office. To avoid this type of problem in the future, applicant's representative should make request a corrected filing receipt.

The applicant is advised that a "request for republication of an application previously published" may be filed under 37 CFR 1.221 (a). Such a request for republication "must include a copy of the application compliance with the Office's electronic filing system requirements and be accompanied by the publication fee set forth in § 1.18 (d) and the processing fee set forth in § 1.17 (i)." If the request for republication does not comply with the electronic filing system requirements, the republication will not take place and the publication fee set forth in § 1.18 (d) will be refunded. The processing fee will be retained.

Any request for republication under 37 CFR 1.221(a), must be submitted via the EFS system and questions or request for reconsideration of the decision, should be addressed as follows:

By mail to: Mail Stop PGPUB
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450

By facsimile: 571-273-8300

Inquiries relating to this matter may be directed to Mark Polutta at (571) 272-7709 (voice).



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